

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1-3 are amended herein. Claims 1-4 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

II. CLAIMS 1-4 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(a) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY THE ADMITTED PRIOR ART SHOWN IN FIGURE 6 OF THIS APPLICATION.

The Examiner noted on page 3, paragraph 3 of the office action that claim 1 would distinguish over the admitted prior art in figure 6 if claim 1 recited that all leads are substantially equal in length. Claim 1 has been amended to include this feature. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

The rejections of claims 2-4 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. The present invention, for example, as recited in the amended claim 2, recites in part ...*pushing simultaneously the terminal face of the lead of the optical fiber toward a grinding surface of a grinding apparatus while moving in a certain direction so that a terminal portion of each lead is resiliently bent to form the inclined surface at the terminal face of the lead.* The Examiner asserts that it is inherent that the fibers, when pushed into contact with the grinding surface, would be resiliently bent at least slightly. Although, the Applicant agrees that optical fibers are inherently flexible, the Applicant disagrees with the assertion that it is inherent that the fibers would be resiliently bent at least slightly, when pushed into contact with the grinding surface.

According to the present invention, for example, as recited in the amended claim 2, a *method of forming an inclined surface... holding a plurality of optical fibers simultaneously, and pushing simultaneously the terminal face of the lead of the optical fiber toward a grinding surface of a grinding apparatus while moving in a certain direction so that a terminal portion of each lead is resiliently bent to form the inclined surface at the terminal face of the lead.* The admitted prior art in figure 6 suggests that the optical fibers are held rigidly by a holding means, as the fibers are being ground, which implies the fibers are not allowed to bend during this process. Therefore, the admitted prior art does not disclose or suggest the features as recited, for example, in the amended claim 2.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claims 1 and 2, it is respectfully

submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of various other claims, i.e. claims 3 and 4 for example, over the cited reference. Therefore, the present invention is not anticipated by the admitted prior art, because, the admitted prior art does not disclose all the features of the present invention, as recited in the amended claims 1 and 2 for example. In view of the claim amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-4 are respectfully requested.

III. CLAIM 2 IS REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY CHIBA ET AL. (U.S. APPLICATION NO. 2003/0077034).

Chiba does not disclose or suggests all the features of the present invention. The present invention, for example, as recited in the amended claim 2, *a method of forming an inclined surface... holding a plurality of optical fibers simultaneously, and pushing simultaneously the terminal face of the lead of the optical fiber toward a grinding surface of a grinding apparatus while moving in a certain direction so that a terminal portion of each lead is resiliently bent to form the inclined surface at the terminal face of the lead.* The Chiba also suggests that the optical fibers are held rigidly by a holding means, as the fibers are being ground. Further, Chiba does not disclose *a plurality of fibers being held together... pushing simultaneously the terminal face of the lead of the optical fiber toward a grinding surface of a grinding apparatus while moving in a certain direction so that a terminal portion of each lead is resiliently bent to form the inclined surface at the terminal face of the lead.* Therefore, Chiba does not disclose or suggest the features as recited, for example, in the amended claim 2.

Therefore, the present invention is not anticipated by Chiba, because, Chiba does not disclose all the features of the present invention, as recited in the amended claim 2 for example. In view of the claim amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 2 is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

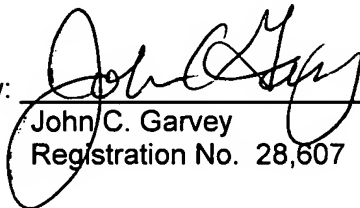
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 9-26-05

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